IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (original) A method of thickening liquid hydrocarbons, the method comprising mixing the hydrocarbon with an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form to yield a thickened homogenous solution.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, in which the liquid hydrocarbon comprises commercial kerosene.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2, in which the kerosene comprises a low odour kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62°C.

4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

6. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, in which the polymer has a molecular weight in the range 1.4 to 2.0 x106.

7. (original) A composition of matter comprising a thickened homogenous solution of an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form dissolved in a liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil.

8. (original) A composition according to claim 7, in which the fuel oil comprises kerosene.

9. (original) A composition according to claim 8, in which the kerosene comprise commercial kerosene.

10. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, in which the polyolefm polymer a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

11. (original) A composition according to claim 10, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

12. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any of claim 7 to 11~~ claim 7, in which the polymer has a molecular weight in the range 1.4 to 2.0 x106.

13. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any of claims 7 to 12~~ claim 7 for use as a lamp oil.

14. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~any of claim 7 to 12~~ claim 7 for use as a barbecue lighting fuel.